

faith, family and the force on which he served. The people of Largo and the Largo Police Department lost a hero last week, but his memory, his strength and his core values will long live on in his children, his family, his friends and fellow officers. There can be no finer lasting tribute for a man who died long before his time.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, Feb. 26, 2009]

LARGO OFFICER WAS TOUGH MAN WITH SOFT HEART

(By Stephanie Hayes)

LARGO—Michael Renault was bagging groceries at a Winn-Dixie when his calling clicked.

A thief came into the store and robbed the cash register. Michael, always mischievous, always sneaking out of his window at night, sought adventure and feared nothing.

He also knew right from wrong. At 16, he took off chasing the bad guy.

He had cowboy instincts, raised on a diet of outer space westerns like Star Wars and Star Trek. He collected John Wayne movies and memorabilia.

He loved to fish and play laser tag in the middle of the night with his younger brother, Jason. He was unfailingly loyal, a good man to have on your team.

"He was someone I always looked up to," said Jason Renault, 33. "He was about as much of a big brother as you can ask for. I kind of idolized him in way."

After college, he joined the Largo Police Department, climbing to become a lieutenant. He was tough to crack, a man of deep voice and few words, said his wife, Jennifer Renault, a fellow Largo police officer. Some people were intimidated.

When they first met, "He paid no attention to me," she said. "That was our big joke. But then he really helped me out, showing me what to do. He was just very genuine and always made me feel special."

Lt. Renault received a medal of valor for climbing a fire ladder to get a suicidal man off the roof of a building, she said. Other times, he endured dog bites while trying to catch criminals.

He was an ace at poker, golfing, hunting, playing softball and fantasy football.

He hated to lose.

"Oh, yeah, he was a sore loser," said his wife. "Mike Renault was a sore loser. Everyone will tell you that."

Underneath, there was a soft man who wanted a huge family. He played and caught bugs with his sons, Hunter and Luke. He took them to ball games but curtailed his competitive side so they'd know it was fine to lose.

He yearned for a little girl. "He wanted the princess," his wife said. "He wanted to be the dad to walk her down the aisle."

Eleven months ago, Hannah Renault was born. Lt. Renault sat and listened to a country song called I Loved Her First. He teared picturing his daughter in a white dress. But three months later, he got staggering news—he had stomach cancer. His family and friends rallied. His fellow officers raised money and shaved their heads in solidarity.

As he ailed, he prayed and wrote in journals. He wanted his children to graduate, to get married, to travel. He wished they'd have fearless adventures and find their callings.

Lt. Renault died Tuesday. He was 37.

Biography

Michael Renault

Born: Oct. 1, 1971.

Died: Feb. 24, 2009.

Survivors: wife, Jennifer, children, Hunter, Luke and Hannah; parents, James and Judy Renault; siblings, Jason Renault, Kristen

Pitchford; grandmother, Betty Lynch; seven nieces and nephews.

Services: 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1199 Highland Ave., Largo.

EARMARK DISCLOSURE CORRECTION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I would like to correct an error made in my description of a law enforcement request for the City of Lansing that should read "\$500,000" rather than "\$3,125,000." This project was funded at \$500,000 by H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 14, supporting the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week. More than 400,000 Americans live with multiple sclerosis. This disease knows no gender, age, or ethnic boundaries. It strikes all in our society, even our children, with an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 who live with this terrible disease, by attacking the central nervous system. Symptoms, progress, and severity of the disease vary widely from patient to patient. Some can lead normal lives with symptoms like numbness in the limbs while others can be stricken with paralysis or blindness.

Mr. Speaker, I think everyone here can say that they know someone with MS. My wife and I know a number of people in our community in South Florida that are currently affected.

Despite the prevalence of this terrible disease, we are still a long way off before a cure is found. We still don't know what causes MS and have no definitive way to diagnose it. Physicians are forced to use a combination of diagnostic strategies, which includes ruling out all other possible diagnoses. The result is that patients can go months, if not years, without a definitive understanding of what's causing their debilitating symptoms.

Mr. Speaker, we must find a cure. As we have seen with other diseases where we have made major advances in treatment, progress starts with awareness in all levels of society and government. That's why the concurrent resolution that we are considering today is so important. Not only does it recognize the goals and ideals of Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week, but it reaffirms our national commitment to finding a cure.

I am proud to support this resolution. I thank my colleague from California, Ms. LEE, along with Mr. CARNAHAN and Dr. BURGESS, for introducing this resolution, and urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on final passage.

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution raising awareness about the criminal justice system and crime awareness month. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I find it tragic that approximately three million Americans are employed within the justice system. Approximately seven million adults are on probation, parole, or are incarcerated. Many more millions of Americans have been victims of crime and, consequently, lost income, incurred medical expenses, and suffered emotionally.

To be sure there is a high cost of crime to individuals, communities, businesses, and the various levels of government exceeds the billions of dollars spent each year in administering the criminal justice system. It is because of this that I have authored innovative legislation aimed at addressing these problems. For example, in the 110th Congress and again in the 111th Congress, I sponsored the Drug Sentencing Reform and Cocaine Kingpin Trafficking Act of 2009 which addresses the disparity between crack and powder cocaine. The bill is presently numbered H.R. 265.

I also authored H.R. 61, Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2009. Importantly, this bill amends the federal criminal code to direct the Bureau of Prisons to release prisoners who (1) served one half or more of his or her term of imprisonment; (2) obtained at least the age of 45; (3) has never been convicted of a crime of violence; and (4) has not engaged in any violation of institutional disciplinary regulations.

These two pieces of legislation will go far in addressing the problems in the criminal justice system and will go far in educating the masses of Americans about the criminal justice system. Federal, State, and local governments increased their spending for police protection, corrections, judicial, and legal activities in fiscal year 2005 by 5.5 percent or \$204 billion. My bills if passed will decrease the amount of money spent on protecting communities and the warehousing of prisoners in the industrial prison complex.

More work needs to be done by Members of Congress. In 2006, fifty percent of Americans admitted they fear that their home would be burglarized when they are not home. Thirty-four percent of American women feared that they would be sexually assaulted and forty-four percent of Americans feared they would be a victim of a terrorist attack.

What is astonishing is that approximately thirty-five percent of Americans have very little or no confidence in the criminal justice system and the negative effects of crime in regard to confidence in governmental agencies and overall social stability are immeasurable.

The reality is that crime rates have dropped since the early 1990s, but most Americans believe that the rate of crime is increasing. Let me share some alarming statistics regarding crime in Houston.

CRIME STATISTICS IN HOUSTON

According to Houston Police Department statistics:

VIOLENT CRIMES

Violent crimes in Houston increased less than 1 percent in 2008 compared with 2007.

Homicides dropped by 16 percent.

The number of homicides dropped from 353 in 2007 to 295 last year.

Sexual assaults increased more than 8 percent from 2007.

Aggravated assaults increased at 9.1 percent.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Of the 1,092 additional aggravated assault cases in 2008, more than half were reports of domestic violence.

NONVIOLENT CRIMES

Nonviolent crimes declined more than 10 percent in 2008.

Property dropped by more than 10 percent.

Auto thefts decreased last year, dropping more than 21 percent to 15,214, down from 19,465 in 2007.

The bills that I authored are intended to make America a better, fairer place, and are intended to assist families and the incarcerated. They are smart bills that are aimed at making America a safer place and are aimed at lessening the expense of warehousing prisoners and the indiscriminate locking up of prisoners. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and the bills that I sponsored.

EXTENDING CERTAIN
IMMIGRATION PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, the House's consideration of H.R. 1127, legislation to extend certain visas for religious workers and doctors serving in underserved areas highlights our broken immigration and visa system.

While R-1 visas and the Conrad 30 J waivers are noble programs there are many small businesses in my congressional district that face critical shortages of workers because Congress has failed to address the H-2B temporary worker visa program.

Without prompt action by Congress to extend H-2B visa cap relief, employers who rely on temporary and seasonal employees face severe worker shortages and the looming possibility of business closures in 2009.

Workers with H-2B visas provide necessary labor for the seafood, tourism, hospitality, and landscape industries, as well as many other temporary and non-agricultural jobs in this country. Due to the seasonal nature of the work and the structure of the cap, employers often face uncertainty and employment shortages during their busiest season.

I urge you to take action to quickly pass the Save Our Small and Seasonal Business Act of 2009. H.R. 1136 would address this important issue impacting many businesses in my district and across the country. Your leadership in this matter is critical in assuring that small and seasonal business will be able to successfully navigate the challenging times facing our economy.

HELPING FAMILIES SAVE THEIR
HOMES ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1106) to prevent mortgage foreclosures and enhance mortgage credit availability:

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1106, the "Helping Families Save Their Homes Act of 2009." We are in the midst of the gravest recession in recent memory and hear daily of countless foreclosures across the Nation, particularly in my home state of Michigan. As President Obama mentioned during his address to the Congress last week, the federal government can and must pursue measures to mitigate the effects of this terrible economic blight upon the Nation's citizens.

With the painful memories of the Great Depression still clearly in mind, I offer my wholehearted praise and support for the President's call to action. Additionally, as the representative of a congressional district with one of the Nation's highest foreclosure rates and most dramatic decline in housing values, I feel it imperative that we move swiftly to stabilize the housing market to keep people in their homes.

H.R. 1106's provisions will do much toward achieving this goal. Its improvements to the Hope for Homeowners program and provision for a safe harbor to mortgage servicers that elect to participate in mortgage modifications will help stem the tide of foreclosures sweeping across the country. The bill's provision to make permanent the increase in federal deposit insurance from \$100,000 to \$250,000 will give Americans greater faith in the safety of their savings at a time of continued bank failures.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to my colleagues, Representatives LOFGREN, TAUSCHER, and CARDOZA, for their work to narrow the authority in this bill afforded to bankruptcy judges to modify the terms of a loan for primary residences. I believe that in keeping with the President's housing plan, we should adopt a targeted effort at stemming foreclosures to address the housing crisis.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I MUST SAVE MY CHILD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following for the RECORD.

[From Parade, Feb. 15, 2009]

I MUST SAVE MY CHILD

(By Melissa Fay Greene)

WHEN SUSAN AXELROD tells the story of her daughter, she begins like most parents of children with epilepsy: The baby was adorable, healthy, perfect. Lauren arrived in June 1981, a treasured first-born. Susan Landau had married David Axelrod in 1979, and

they lived in Chicago, where Susan pursued an MBA at the University of Chicago and David worked as a political reporter for the Chicago Tribune. (He later would become chief strategist for Barack Obama's Presidential campaign and now is a senior White House adviser.) They were busy and happy. Susan attended classes while her mother babysat. Then, when Lauren was 7 months old, their lives changed overnight.

"She had a cold," Susan tells me as we huddle in the warmth of a coffee shop in Washington, D.C., on a day of sleet and rain. Susan is 55, fine-boned, lovely, and fit. She has light-blue eyes, a runner's tan, and a casual fall of silver and ash-blond hair. When her voice trembles or tears threaten, she lifts her chin and pushes on.

"The baby was so congested, it was impossible for her to sleep. Our pediatrician said to give her one-quarter of an adult dose of a cold medication, and it knocked her out immediately. I didn't hear from Lauren the rest of the night. In the morning, I found her gray and limp in her crib. I thought she was dead.

"In shock, I picked her up, and she went into a seizure—arms extended, eyes rolling back in her head. I realized she'd most likely been having seizures all night long. I phoned my mother and cried, 'This is normal, right? Babies do this?' She said, 'No, they don't'."

The Axelrods raced Lauren to the hospital. They stayed for a month, entering a parallel universe of sleeplessness and despair under fluorescent lights. No medicine relieved the baby. She interacted with her parents one moment, bright-eyed and friendly, only to be grabbed away from them the next, shaken by inner storms, starting and stiffening, hands clenched and eyes rolling. Unable to stop Lauren's seizures, doctors sent the family home.

The Axelrods didn't know anything about epilepsy. They didn't know that seizures were the body's manifestation of abnormal electrical activity in the brain or that the excessive neuronal activity could cause brain damage. They didn't know that two-thirds of those diagnosed with epilepsy had seizures defined as "idiopathic," of unexplained origin, as would be the case with Lauren. They didn't know that a person could, on rare occasions, die from a seizure. They didn't know that, for about half of sufferers, no drugs could halt the seizures or that, if they did, the side effects were often brutal. This mysterious disorder attacked 50 million people worldwide yet attracted little public attention or research funding. No one spoke to the Axelrods of the remotest chance of a cure.

AT HOME, LIFE SHAKILY returned to a new normal, interrupted by Lauren's convulsions and hospitalizations. Exhausted, Susan fought on toward her MBA; David became a political consultant. Money was tight and medical bills stacked up, but the Axelrods had hope. Wouldn't the doctors find the right drugs or procedures? "We thought maybe it was a passing thing," David says. "We didn't realize that this would define her whole life, that she would have thousands of these afterward, that they would eat away at her brain."

"I had a class one night, I was late, there was an important test," Susan recalls. "I'd been sitting by Lauren at the hospital. When she fell asleep, I left to run to class. I got as far as the double doors into the parking lot when it hit me: 'What are you doing?'" She returned to her baby's bedside. From then on, though she would continue to build her family (the Axelrods also have two sons) and support her husband's career, Susan's chief role in life would be to keep Lauren alive and functioning.

THE LITTLE GIRL WAS AT RISK OF falling, of drowning in the bathtub, of dying of